ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus are provided that dynamically allocates communication streams to provide flexible bandwidth to terminals of a communications system. In one embodiment the invention includes identifying a first terminal and a second terminal to each other for the communication of traffic over at least one of multiple streams; and dynamically allocating and de-allocating further streams based on the traffic to be carried and the traffic capacity of opened streams between the first and the second terminals. The invention may further include comparing traffic to be carried between the first terminal and the second terminal to the capacity of any open streams between the first terminal and the second terminal and allocating or de-allocating at least one stream based on the comparison. Alternatively, the invention may include comparing depths of transmit queues to the capacity of any open streams between the first terminal and the second terminal and allocating or de-allocating at least one stream based on the comparison.